

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A method of providing a user status message in an instant messaging system, comprising:

obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

providing a user interface for adding a new entry to said user status message;

inputting, through said user interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry;

adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message to other users, and wherein said new entry and each of said plurality of previous entries are each editable by both said owner user and by remote users that have registered to receive awareness information regarding said owner user by including said owner user in their respective instant messaging buddy lists, said other users through a clickable portion of said user status message; and

_____ broadcasting said user status message with edits made by said owner user and edits made by said remote users to said new entry and to said plurality of previous entries from an instant messaging server process to respective instant messaging client processes of each of said remote users

_____ detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and
_____ forming a link to an associated web page through said character string having said predetermined format, wherein said forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of said web page associated with said link.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said adding said new entry further comprises inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 203, further comprising:

wherein said predetermined format is a predetermined capitalization format.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message; and

preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

20. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and
forming a link to an associated web page through said character string having said
predetermined format, wherein said forming includes providing a form interface that allows
adding of said web page associated with said link.

21. (new) A system for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system,
comprising:

program code, in a local client computer system, for obtaining a user status message
associated with an owner user;

program code, in said local client computer system, for providing a user interface for adding a new entry to said user status message;

program code, in said local client computer system, for inputting, through said user interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry;

program code, in said local client computer system, for adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message, and wherein said new entry and each of said plurality of previous entries are each editable by both said owner user and by remote users that have registered to receive awareness information regarding said owner user by including said owner user in their respective instant messaging buddy lists, through a clickable portion of said user status message; and

program code, in a server computer system, for broadcasting said user status message with edits made by said owner user and edits made by said remote users to said new entry and to said plurality of previous entries from an instant messaging server process to respective instant messaging client processes in remote client computer systems of each of said remote users.

22. (new) The system of claim 21, wherein said program code for adding said new entry further comprises program code for inserting a date at which said new entry was added into said user status message.

23. (new) The system of claim 22, wherein said program code for adding said new entry further comprises program code for inserting an identifier of a user associated with said request to edit said user status message.

24. (new) The system of claim 21, further comprising:

program code, in said local client computer system, for detecting a character string having a predetermined format within said new entry; and

program code, in said local client computer system, for forming a link to an associated web page through said character string having said predetermined format, wherein said forming includes providing a form interface that allows adding of said web page associated with said link.

25. (new) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

wherein said predetermined format is a predetermined capitalization format.

26. (new) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

program code, in said local client computer system, for creating a new web page on a predetermined server system responsive to said detecting said character string having a predetermined format within said new entry, wherein said link to said web page comprises a link to said new web page, and wherein said new web page is an user editable web page.

27. (new) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

program code, in said local client computer system, for presenting an interface to said owner user associated with said user status message, wherein said interface enables said owner user to indicate at least one other user that is allowed to add an entry to said user status message; and

program code, in said local client computer system and said remote client computer systems, for preventing users other than said at least one other user and said owner user associated with said user status message from adding an entry to said user status message.

28. (new) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable memory having program code stored thereon for providing a user status message in an instant messaging system by:

obtaining a user status message associated with an owner user;

providing a user interface for adding a new entry to said user status message;

inputting, through said user interface for adding said new entry to said user status message, information to include within said new entry;

adding said new entry to said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry includes inserting a time at which said new entry was added into said user status message, wherein said adding said new entry to said user status message further includes adding said new entry to a plurality of previous entries maintained within said user status message, wherein said new entry and said previous entries together provide an editing history of said status message, and wherein said new entry and each of said plurality of previous entries are each editable by both said owner user and by remote users that have registered to receive awareness information regarding said owner user by including said

owner user in their respective instant messaging buddy lists, through a clickable portion of said user status message; and

broadcasting said user status message with edits made by said owner user and edits made by said remote users to said new entry and to said plurality of previous entries from an instant messaging server process to respective instant messaging client processes of each of said remote users.